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Marlborough and Ramsbury Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1942

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 23rd Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their cirular 2773 dated March 10th, 1943.

I have the honour to remain,
Your obedient servant,
A. H. WILSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

18 Victoria Road, Salisbury.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931 : 10,721.
Population—Estimated Mid. 1942—10,720
Area, 94,511 Acres
Rateable Value : £46,164
Sum represented by Penny Rate : £191 0 0
Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1942 3,100.

Births, 1942.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Live	103	76	179	(10 Illegitimate)
Still	2	3	5	(1 Illegitimate)

Birth Rate, 1942.		England and Wales	
Live	16.7	Live	15.8
Still	0.42	Still	0.54

Birth Rate Average last 9 years 14.4
England and Wales ,, ,, 9 ,, 14.8
Deaths : Males, 68. Females 60. Total, 128.

Death Rate (1942) 11.9 Average last 9 years 11.0
England and Wales ,, 11.6 ,, ,, 9 ,, 12.2

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 7 Females 5. Total, 12.
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) 67.0
England and Wales 49.0
Infantile Mortality Average last 9 years 49.0
England and Wales ,, ,, 9 ,, 55.0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever	12	10	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0
Pneumonia	12	5	3
Erysipelas	8	2	0
Measles	5	0	0
Whooping Cough	66	0	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	0

Scarlet Fever. Only twelve cases were notified, they were all sporadic and only two were in any way connected.

Diphtheria. No case of this disease was notified during the year and as only two during the year before and one the year before that were notified, this district has remained very free from this disease.

Puerpera Pyrexia. One case only was notified and this recovered.

Pneumonia. Twelve cases were notified and three of them died while the other death given by the Registrar General was of a types which is not notifiable.

Erysipelas. Of the eight cases notified two only required Hospital treatment and none of them died.

Measles and Whooping Cough. Only five of the former were notified while practically all the whooping coughs were during the first half of the year. One child age 4 died.

Encephalitis-lethargica. One case of this disease was notified and treated in Savernake Hospital.

Tuberculosis. Thirteen cases of all sorts were notified during the year of these nine were of the lungs, two were discharges from the army and two were transfers and only remained in the district for a very short period.

Of those notified during the year four died.

The notifications were :—

Male Pulm.	1 between 15—20	3 between 25—35
	1 ,, 45—55	1 ,, 55—65
	1 over 65	

Female Pulm.	1 between	15—20	1	,,	20—25
Male Non. P.	1 ,,	1— 5			
Female Non. Pulm.	1 ,,	5—10	1	,,	10—15
	1 ,,	20—25			

Deaths were :—

Male Pulm.	1 between	15—20	2 between 25—35
	1 ,,	55—65	1 over 65
Female Pulm.	1 ,,	15—20	
Male Non. P.	1 ,,	25—35	

Immunisation against Diphtheria. This campaign continues and during the year 36 children under five years and 43 between 5 and 15 were immunised making a total of 79 for the year.

Up to the end of 1942, 1844 children had been immunised in the district. This figure according to an estimated child population given to me indicates that approximately 45.5% of the children under five had been immunised while 94% of those between 5 and 15 had been done.

Water Supply.

The three public supplies, (1) Baydon, (where the water is obtained from the Hungerford Rural District Council), (2) Aldbourne, Ramsbury and Chilton Foliat, and (3) Great Bedwyn and Chisbury, are giving satisfactory service. Number 2 scheme is meeting ever increasing requirements for water, from the Military Camps and the new R.A.F. Station. Few private properties have been connected during the year. All three supplies are regularly examined bacteriologically and have proved to be free from harmful pollution.

Rivers, Streams and Ponds.

Complaints were received respecting Wilton Pond and also the pond and bourne at Berwick Bassett.

In the case of the pond at Wilton, it was found to be silting up gradually and losing its capacity. The silting, if allowed to go on, would eventually cause flooding to certain houses. No responsible owner could be found and no action was taken.

At Berwick Bassett, there was found to be a serious nuisance owing to the fouling of the pond and bourne by drainage from two farms and a small farmyard.

Statutory notices were served in all three cases, and in the case of the small farmyard, the nuisance was abated, but owing to the difficulty of obtaining labour, no works were carried out on the two larger farms, which contributed largely to the nuisance.

Public Cleansing.

The monthly scheme of house to house collection of dry domestic refuse in the village areas, was discontinued by the Council in April 1942, except for the two large villages of Aldbourne and Ramsbury, where the collections continued on a monthly basis. It was thought

that most of the refuse collected consisted of materials required for salvage. Afterwards it was decided to have a refuse collection once in each 6 months in those areas where the monthly collections had been discontinued.

Special Legislation of legal action.

Nothing to report.

Housing.

No formal action taken.

As a result of informal action, 17 houses found not fit in all respects were rendered fit out of 28 houses inspected.

Overcrowding.

Only 3 serious cases came to light and were dealt with during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied by 3.	Remedied by 4.	Remedied after verbal instructions only.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances ...	152	69	54	3	34	1	15
Slaughter-houses ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knackers' Yards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is prepared ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds ... Dairies and Milkstores	233	24	12	—	6	—	12
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	21	8	4	—	1	—	3
Bakehouses	24	4	1	—	1	—	3
Butcher's Shops ...	16	2	—	—	—	—	2
Totals	447	107	71	3	42	1	35

Milk and Dairies, etc.

Number of Wholesale Producers registered	126
,, Retail Purveyors ,, ...	34
Approximate number of cows	5000

Towards the close of the year, the Wilts War Agricultural Committee, brought to the notice of the Council, the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, and asked for the co-operation of the District Council's Sanitary Inspectors in this work. This co-operation was promised.

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses	No Slaughterhouses were in use in the district during the year, all slaughtering being carried out in Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses in Marlborough Borough.
Number of Licensed Slaughterhouses	

Notices received of Regular Slaughter	0
,, ,, Casual ,, ...	36
No. of Condemnations—Meat	2
Do. of other Foods in Shops etc.	4

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes	68	60
Typhoid and Paratyphoid		
Cerebrospinal Fever ..		
Scarlet Fever .. .		
Whooping Cough ..		1
Diphtheria		
Tuberc. of Respir. syst. ..	5	1
Other form of Tuberc.	1	
Syphilitic Diseases ..		1
Influenza		2
Measles		
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.		
Ac. Inf. Enceph.		
Cancer of b. cav; and oesoph (M.) uterus (F)	1	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	6	2
Cancer of breast ..		3
Cancer of all other sites ..	9	5
Diabetes		
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	6	10
Heart disease	14	10
Other dis. of circ. syst. ..	2	5
Bronchitis		2
Pneumonia	2	2
Other Resp. diseases ..	1	
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	
Diarrhœa under two years		

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
Appendicitis	2	
Other digest. diseases ..		2
Nephritis	2	4
Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		
Other maternal causes ..		
Premature birth	3	2
Cong. malf. birth inj. Inf. dis.	3	2
Suicide		1
Road Traffic Act	1	
Other violent causes ..	3	1
All other causes ..	6	3
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Total	7	5
Legitimate	7	4
Illegitimate		1
Live Births		
Total	103	76
Legitimate	96	73
Illegitimate	7	3
Stillbirths		
Total	2	3
Legitimate	2	2
Illegitimate		1
Population	10,720	